

Worker's Compensation
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Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

INS #	514
Date	December 15, 2016
Program	Claims Management
Type	Informational
Replaces	Insurance Letter 506

To: Claims Handling Offices for Insurance Carriers and Self Insured Employers
From: BJ Dernbach, Division Administrator
Subject: Worker's Compensation 2017 Rate Changes

Purpose: Announce 2017 maximum rates effective January 1, 2017.

Background: Wisconsin's maximum Worker's Compensation rate will increase to \$961 per week for temporary total disability, permanent total disability and death benefits for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2017 and before January 1, 2018. The new average weekly wage used to compute the maximum rate is \$1441.50.

Using this new wage raises the maximum death benefit for fatal injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2017 to \$288,300. The maximum burial expense remains \$10,000 and the death benefit to unestranged parents remains \$6,500.

The maximum weekly indemnity rate for permanent partial disability will increase to \$362 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2017.

The 2017 maximum limit for private vocational rehabilitation services increased by .93% to \$1631. When the Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is unable to provide services to eligible injured workers, insurers are required to pay the reasonable and necessary vocational rehabilitation costs including the costs of services provided by the vocational rehabilitation specialists in the private sector. This change is based on the average annual percentage change in the U.S. Consumer price index for all urban consumers. The new limit applies regardless of the date of injury.

Action Requested: Please inform all claim handlers of these changes.

Inquiries: A chart with detailed benefit payment information for 2017 is available on our web site at: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/wc/wkc_9572_p.pdf

If you have any questions, please contact us at (608) 266-1340.

Reference: Insurance Letter 506